Non-filing of vacancies of Grade 'D' Staff in AIIMS

200. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 409 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st December, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies in the categories of Nursing Orderly, Masalchi, Cook, Bearar, Telephone Attendant (R. P. Centre) which should be filled up through direct recruitment, are still lying vacant and no proper action has been taken by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences authorities to fill up the same; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI): (a) and (b) Only a few posts in the categories of Nursing Orderly, Masalchi, Cook, Bearer, Telephone attendent are lying vacant in various Centres of AIIMS and suitable steps have already been initiated by the Institute to fill up these vacancies.

Simplification of direct and indirect taxes

201. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to simplify and rationalise all kinds of direct and indirect taxes; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Simplification and rationalisation is a continuous process. The Government's intention is to further simplify and rationalise all kinds of direct and indirect Taxes. This year's budget is under formulation and it is pre-mature to disclose the details, so far as the current year is concerned.

Operations of Indian Bank abroad

202. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any working group was appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to make an appraisal of current operations of Indian banks functioning abroad;

(b) whether the group has submitted its report; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution by five star hotels in Delhi

203. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some five star hotels in Delhi have been found to be polluting the atmosphere by throwing up large quantity of smoke, etc;

(b) whether NDMC authorities have been asked by his Ministry to take action against such hotels; and

(c) if so, what are the names and other details about such hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Spread of AIDS in India

204. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a U. S. Congressman who is also a physician and co-

chairman of International AIDS task force, India is on the brink of an AIDS catastrophe;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed by Government to meet this threat and control the epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI): (a) to (c) A. U. S. Congressman who visited India in April, 1991 has estimated that one million persons may be infected. He has based his estimation on the prevalence of infection among prostitutes and spread of infection to their clients in Bombay. Also reckoning the spread of HIV infection through contaminated blood and through sharing of needles by intravenous drug users, the Congressman has estimated that one million may be infected.

Government of India with the help of WHO assistance has formulated an action plan for undertaking prevention and control measures in the most affected states, viz: Maharashtra Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Delhi and Manipur. The control measures relate to:—

— Information, education and communication.

— Sexually Transmitted diseases.

— Blood Safety.

— Clinical Management.

— Programme Management.

The World Health Organisation has agreed to provide assistance for financing the Action Plans in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Manipur and Union Territory of Delhi. The amounts earmarked for each State are as under:—

	State	Amount US$ (in lakhs)
1.	Maharashtra . .	4·45
2.	Manipur . . .	0·63
3.	Tamil Nadu . .	2·87
4.	West Bengal . .	3·67
5.	Delhi . . .	1·42

Number of special courts constituted in the country

205. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States and Union Territories in which special courts have been constituted so far to deal with the cases regarding violation of the provisions of the Water and Air Acts;

(b) the number of cases which are pending in these special courts at present; and

(c) whether Government propose to monitor the progress of establishment of such special courts in different States and Union Territories and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Special Courts have been set up in the States of Bihar, Orissa & Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi to deal with cases relating to violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(b) The number of cases pending in the Special Courts are: Bihar—185; Orissa—52; Uttar Pradesh—102; Union Territory of Delhi—29.